

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 /128 W

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R 100820Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6896

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, UNCTAD, EARL, ETRD, ECIN, CG

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - COPPER PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING

REF: GENEVA 1659, STATE 50291

1. A SOURCE IN THE DEPT. OF MINES INFORMS US THAT ZAIRE'S DELEGATES TO THE MARCH COPPER CONFERENCE WILL LARGELY DUPLICATE ITS TEAM AT THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ENERGY PEOPLE. THE GOZ IS, HOWEVER, DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF SOZACOM, ZAIRE'S MINERALS MARKETING ORGANIZATION, VERSUS GECAMINES, THE STATE-OWNED MINERAL-PRODUCING COMPANY, IN THE UPCOMING TALKS. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR A SOZACOM STAFFER TO REPRESENT BOTH ORGANIZATIONS, BUT GECAMINES WILL PROBABLY WIND UP WITH ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVE. GROWING RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANI-

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ZATIONS WAS BROUGHT TO A HEAD 5 MARCH WHEN THE DELEGATE

GENERAL OF SOZACOM, ZOLA KINKELA MPAKA, WAS DISMISSED.

2. ZOLA HAD PLAYED A LARGE ROLE ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER ISSUES--IN THE ZAIRIAN CONTEXT--BEGINNING WITH THE PREPCON LAST SPRING WHEN HE HEADED ZAIRE'S DELEGATION. HOWEVER, TRIBAL RIVALRIES BETWEEN ZOLA AND THE HEAD OF GECAMINES AGGRAVATED A SERIOUS DISPUTE OVER COPPER RECEIPTS IN WHICH GECAMINES CLAIMED THAT SOZACOM WAS NOT REMITTING THE EARNINGS FROM SALE OF GECAMINES' COPPER. IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE BELGIAN SOCIETE GENERAL DE MINERAIS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE AUTHORIZED TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN MARKETING ZAIRE'S MINERAL PRODUCTION. THIS SWITCH WILL PROBABLY UNDERCUT SOZACOM'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN PRODUCER/CONSUMER DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE DEPT. OF MINES SOURCE INDICATES THAT THE GOZ HAS NO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE MARCH MEETING, BUT SEES IT AS OUTGROWTH OF LAST SUMMER'S FRENCH-ZAIRIAN CALL FOR PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE ON COPPER. CIPEC HAS SHOWN ITS LIMITS AND GOZ HAD DECIDED TO SWITCH IN FAVOR OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE MARCH COPPER CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: GOZ HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO LINK THE MARCH CONFERENCE AND THE CIEC DISCUSSIONS, AT LEAST IN ITS OWN THINKING. AS ZAIRE SEES ITS OWN SELF-INTEREST CLOSELY TIED TO THE COPPER DISCUSSION, IT IS PROBABLE THAT ZAIRE'S ENTHUSIASM AND ATTITUDES IN THE CIEC DISCUSSIONS WILL VARY ACCORDING TO ITS PERCEPTION OF ITS FORTUNES IN THE COPPER CONFERENCE.
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